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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2013

New look

NRP cruisers going black and white
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Losing weight

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■ AGRICULTURE

Harvesting the rewards

SARAH FERGUSON
InPort News Staff

PELHAM — It's late October and at any one of the dozen or so plots of land he leases, it's not unusual to find Sid Hoover behind the wheel of his John Deere combine at 3 a.m.

There's work to be done, so with the massive tractor illuminated by floodlights, Hoover — like many other farmers across the region — must work late into the night. Running a farming operation is a huge undertaking. From spring until late fall, there's little time for a per-

sonal life. But it's "worth it" for Hoover.

"It's a noble operation, providing food," he says. Hoover was born and raised on a farm, so it was a natural fit to carry on the family tradition.

But his farming operation is very different from the traditional family farm run by his father many years ago. Instead of tending to a large plot of land on a family farm, Hoover looks after 600 hectares of leased land situated across Niagara.

Farming is a tough job, and having that much land spread across the region compli-



cates matters, but it's necessary to maintain a sustainable income, Hoover says.

"It takes a well-rounded individual. You need to

be a keen driver, operator, mechanic, a businessman and a sensible person."

Hoover finds land to lease by word-of-mouth and finds

plots that no one wants. Often, these pieces of property are next to businesses and homes. Many people, Hoover says, don't realize that crops are

grown so close to urban areas, but that's the way farming has shifted over the past 50 years.

See FARMING page 2

DAN DAKIN/THIRUINE STAFF

A John Deere combine is used to harvest a field of soy beans in Port Colborne. As soon as the soy is harvested, wheat is planted in its place.

<p>HometownRealEstateGuy.com</p> <p>Michael Smith SALES REPRESENTATIVE</p> <p>TOP 10 RLP AGENT 2012</p> <p>2009 2010 2011 2012</p> <p>ROYAL LEPAGE</p> <p>Ph: 905-834-9000 DIRECT: 905-650-4741</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>62 Wallace Street, Port Colborne \$147,900</p> <p>Character home, 4 beds, 1 1/2 baths, oak kitchen, C/A, hardwood & ceramic floors, natural trim, updated plumbing.</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>77 Delhi Street, Port Colborne \$144,900</p> <p>Charming 2 or 3 bedroom thoroughly updated in recent years. Move in ready!</p>	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>134 Adelaide Street Port Colborne \$169,900</p> <p>Traditional 2 story, great family home, 4 beds, 2 baths, 2nd kitchen, newer windows, detached garage and partially fenced yard.</p>	<p>OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 1 - 2:30</p> <p>128 Homewood Avenue, Port Colborne NEW PRICE \$139,900</p> <p>3 Bedroom bungalow in sought after neighbourhood. Great starter, attached carport, fenced yard, mature trees, full basement ready to finish.</p>	<p>OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2:45 - 4:00</p> <p>344 Mitchell Street, Port Colborne NEW LISTING \$139,900</p> <p>3 bedroom, fully updated, designer kitchen and oversized 2 story garage.</p>
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Farm machinery targets of vandals

As fall sets in, the workload increases. When the weather is nice and the fields are dry, Hoover takes advantage by tending to as many crops as possible. But, a one-man operation such as Hoover's needs help from time to time.

"I manage most of my work on my own, but someone needs to be operating the combine while I'm hauling grain away," he says.

That's why Hoover works with fellow farmer Ron Wiley to get his soybeans, wheat and

corn out of the fields and into the bins.

On top of tending to his own crops, Wiley does what he calls "custom work," planting, harvesting or maintaining other farmers' crops. He has been working with Hoover for years.

"When farmers need help working their land, I help them and they help me in return," Wiley said.

The fourth-generation farmer owns the 20-hectare Acme Farms in Wainfleet and

also leases land across the region. Like Hoover, he's constantly on the hunt for more land — going as far as posting ads on Kijiji to spread the word. He's hoping one day to have about 400 hectares to farm.

On any given day, Wiley and Hoover may travel as far as Grimsby and Fort Erie with farming equipment in tow to plant and harvest corn, soy and wheat crops.

There are benefits to tending crops in various spots

across the region. On Thursday afternoon, for example, while a light rain fell in some parts of Niagara — making it impossible to harvest — it was dry and sunny in Dunnville, where the two men could be found working a soy field.

But for every benefit to farming the way Wiley and Hoover do, there are negatives, too.

There's the time, costs and equipment wear of driving machines long stretches from plot to plot, and there's the

constant fear of leaving expensive equipment unattended and vulnerable to vandalism.

Someone caused about \$35,000 in damage to Hoover's farming equipment while it was parked overnight at a piece of land on Sodom Rd. in Stevensville earlier this month.

He found 35 holes drilled in the giant tires on his John Deere combine, the windshield was smashed and six wagons filled with soy beans had been emptied onto the ground.

"Some people don't like

when you come into their neighbourhood," Wiley says.

"The farming community is also shrinking, with many farmers retiring, but Wiley says there's nothing he would rather be doing. The long days and late nights are worth it.

"It just keeps getting bigger and bigger and further and further," he says of his ever-expanding farming operations.

sarah.ferguson@summedia.ca
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CARPE DIEM:

Retirement resident fulfils lifelong dream

At 89 years young, Seasons First Avenue resident Art Angell accomplished something he always wanted to do: skydiving. Art was a flight engineer for the Royal Canadian Air Force who completed 40 ops during WWII. He jumped on October 8, which was a cloudy day. Being in the plane and experiencing the air pockets and seeing the dew and clouds reminded him of his time in the war. When asked "why now?" Art answered, "Why now... that's a very good question. It really was something I have been wanting to do and my 90th birthday is coming up so I thought, 'now is the time to do it!'" Seasons would like to congratulate Art for realizing his lifelong dream. Thanks for being an excellent example of living life to the fullest, Art!



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LOCAL NEWS

■ **POLICING:** Switch being made to black and white

NRP cruisers getting a new look

DON FRASER
QM Agency Niagara

ST. CATHARINES — Niagara Regional Police cruisers are going black and white.

At a recent police services board meeting a vehicle was unveiled showing a new logo, chosen overwhelmingly by the NRP's service members from three options.

Fleet supervisor Sam Paterson said in an interview the rebrand-

ing will be done to new vehicles as they come into service.

It is expected that each NRP district will have at least one rebranded cruiser by the end of November, with the remainder being phased in over two years.

Costs for the options were previously reported to range from about \$8,100 to \$22,500 per year.

It is not immediately known where the black-and-white format falls in this range.

"Once we have a collection of brand-new vehicles in our inventory, it's a question of rebranding or decalling them," Paterson said.

A police report in August to the board said the NRP has about 122 marked patrol vehicles and 16 unmarked vehicles in service. It also has seven motorcycles and other support equipment that use police decals.

The NRP's colour and decal

format has always been a primarily white-and-blue combination since regionalization more than 40 years ago.

Rebranding proposals put to the member's vote included blue-and-white designs with "police" in larger letters.

Paterson said he made the rebranding request based in part on "where we were as a service."

Those factors included adding new-model cruisers to the force, with updated equipment

to fit in those cruisers, and a new police chief. Those new cruiser models include Ford Interceptors to replace the old Crown Victorias.

General Motors is retiring its Impala as a cruiser, with that replacement to be made known to the NRP likely by March.

"It was a question of all of those new things meaning 'Let's have a new branding,' Paterson said.

He said it's his understanding

the survey response is "probably the best they've had to any kind of survey, period."

About 85% who voted online selected the black-and-white model.

"A considerable amount of work has been done on this," NRP Chief Jeff McGuire told the board on Thursday. "It's an ongoing modernization effort."

don.fraser@summedia.ca

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purview

Senate circus a farcical sideshow

Last week Prime Minister Stephen Harper scored his greatest victory to date with the Canada-EU trade deal. This week he's dragged down into the gutter of Canadian politics by the Senate expense scandal.

Or perhaps he dragged himself down. That's what Sen. Mike Duffy's incendiary allegations against the prime minister and his office suggest. Bribery. Threats. Extortion.

We don't have the space here to weigh in on all the particulars of the Duffy vs. PMO spat. Or the details about the other scandal-plagued senators.

But they're not the issue. The fact that this "the said, he said" nonsense is still going on is.

Let's put things into perspective. For starters, take Duffy saying with a grain of salt. It was all said under parliamentary privilege.

Then there's the whole reason senators Duffy, Pamela Wallin and Patrick Brazeau are rising to speak in the first place: The Senate is voting to suspend their pay because the three are under investigation by the RCMP for alleged improper expense claims.

They've come out swinging now to protect their income. Wallin's defence amounted to crying that

her colleagues ganged up on her and that the Senate isn't observing due process. That's because it's not a court. It's a debating chamber.

They'll get their day in court — if the RCMP investigations result in charges. If not, they'll be somewhat vindicated. We say "somewhat" because reputations will still be tainted. Canadians feel that even if the embattled senators didn't violate the letter of the law, they've violated its spirit.

To Canadians, this is about the entitled crying foul about changing perception of their entitlements. And, for that matter, a PMO that at times bears an uncomfortable resemblance to Animal House.

The real danger here is that all of Parliament is consumed by this sideshow while important business like free trade takes a backseat.

If the Harper Conservative government is derailed over this ongoing gong show, someone like Justin Trudeau could ride a wave of public disgust all the way to the Prime Minister's Office.

What a joke that would be. The Conservatives would have only themselves to blame. So bring on the due process. Enough with the circus.

— Sun Media

Good news: Need creamers

PASTOR JEVA SAM
Morgan's Point and Forks Road East United churches

"...Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." (Matthew 6:8)

"And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered." (Matthew 10:30)

Last month one fine Thursday evening my wife Sujolana and I decided to use a 2 for 1 cappuccino coupon at McDonald's.

As we were waiting for our order to be fulfilled, one of the other workers asked: "Would you guys like to take this oatmeal? We just made it and no one wants it. You can have it for free, otherwise we'll just throw it out."

Oh, did I mention that it was now 8:15 p.m. which was breakfast time in Malaysia, perhaps, but not in Canada? Regardless, a freebie is a freebie. I meant to say, God's favour is God's favour. How dare we turn down this token of favour, especially when it was free?

The oatmeal came with a small supply of raisins and dried apples, as well as a package of brown sugar. They offered no milk.

I mean, how do you eat oatmeal porridge without milk? So, I asked for some. The employee looked at me kinda funny, as if to say "What do you need milk for? This should be moist enough."

Regardless of his misgivings, he PARKING OFFICER WENT TOO FAR

The City of Port Colborne bylaw parking officer must have been pissed when he exceeded his ticket quota Friday, Oct. 11.

While family and friends were mourning and celebrating the life of a loved one at St. Patrick's Church, the officer used almost the entire one-hour service to issue parking tickets to every car adjacent to the church. The anger and displeasure must have been directed at Port Colborne Mayor Vans Badway and his council, but at the bylaw enforcement department. The mayor and council should be praised for removing parking meters downtown and allowing two-hour standing in other areas (creates activity and business in the downtown core).

Canal Days and other city sponsored events are granted the same status, but funerals and weddings are exempt? The bylaw officer was either stepping over the fine line between poor and good judgment or following instructions by his superiors. The bylaw officers should be retrained or the department rewrite the manual.

The citizens of Port Colborne displayed respect by allowing the funeral home permission to proceed to the cemetery without stoppage at intersections. The same respect should have been offered by the bylaw officer. Those attending the funeral will donate to the city coffers, but please

offered me two choices — buy a small carton of milk or take a few creamer-size containers of milk. Would it surprise you to discover that I opted for the one that spelled favour, I mean free?

We took the four miniature tokens of favour to a booth and started fixing up the porridge. Much to my surprise, the porridge was actually quite moist. I only needed to add the contents of two of the containers.

Big decision time. What do you do with the remaining two? Do you toss out the contents of God's favour into the trash receptacles? Of course, not!

At my encouragement (or was it command?), Sujolana fedly deposited them into her handbag. And we went home and put them in the fridge.

In all fairness, I did have a slight theological debate in my brain that night. Was the act of bringing the two containers home a violation of the eighth commandment: "Thou shalt not steal"? Or was it an act of stewardship?

I mean, rather than add to the garbage pile of the world, we acted responsibly by using them in a humane way, did we not?

Of course, in the midst of this internal conversation, I could not discount the fact that the two containers simply could not resist a freebie! (As proof, I offer the aforementioned incident

where I had no trouble receiving the gift of the free oatmeal).

Once the debate ended in my favour (with yours truly as the moderator), I slept like a baby that night with a very clear conscience.

Fast forward a couple of days. Our Sunday morning breakfast usually consists of cream of wheat porridge, which Sujolana always makes, but she was not home. She was staying overnight at the home of one of our members after being away Friday and Saturday at the Centre for Faith Conference in Rochester, NY.

So I decided to make myself a bowl of oatmeal porridge instead in the morning.

As per custom (see above), I went to add milk, only to discover that there was none left. Just as I began to steel myself for the prospect of consuming porridge in this less than moist state, I spied with my little eyes two miniature containers of 2% milk in the fridge screaming: "Come and get us!"

I don't know how you would interpret the statistics, but I would like to think that our heavenly Father, who cares for us so deeply that he numbers the hairs on our head knew my need even before I asked for it, and prompted me the Thursday before to bring home those two creamers.

Amen? (or Nay, man?)

not through parking tickets at funerals.

BARRY TUTTLE
PORT COLBORNE

RE: COREN COLUMN OCT. 12
Michael Coren's column clearly shows his intense dislike of Richard Dawkins, but I think he makes a few assumptions that miss reality. He talks of Dawkins' "hatred of God," which cannot be true because one cannot hate something that he doesn't think exists.

If I asked Coren if he believes that there is really a tooth fairy and he replied "No," what would be the point of me then asking, "why do you hate the tooth fairy?"

Dawkins was correctly standing up for those students at the London School of Economics who were ordered to cover up their "Jesus and Mo" T-shirts. If you have a look at some of these cartoons online you will see they cleverly point out some of the inconsistencies and contradictions that exist in both Christianity and Islam, and if you read comments on the website you will see that many of the adherents to these religions can laugh at the jokes.

I find it very disconcerting that Coren agrees that "these annoying atheist kids" would cover up because they might offend the Muslim students at the LSE and that "there could be serious violence."

Those of us on opposite sides of the religion debate must stand up for the rights of our opponents to express them-

selves. There was an incident in Nova Scotia last year where a teenager arrived at school wearing a shirt with the message "Life is Wasted Without Jesus." He was ordered to cover the shirt, and while I find the message obnoxious because my life as an atheist is certainly not wasted, sent a letter to the school principal and the board of education requesting that they allow the boy his freedom of expression. I did not receive a reply.

The Centre for Inquiry in Toronto (a free thought humanist organization) also went to bat for the young man. I think that Richard Dawkins would likely scoff at the message on the boy's shirt, but I would bet a lot of money that he would not order him to remove the shirt. Coren says he is about to make a shirt with the words "Atheists are Cry-Babies with Double Standards." I'm sure Dawkins would be quite amused.

DAVID FOWLER
WAINFLEET

WHAT TO BELIEVE

After five years in office and adding over \$6 trillion more in debt, now President Barack Obama has stated that the U.S. has to focus on fiscal responsibility. I guess that it is all George Bush's fault? How can any American believe anything that spews out of President Obama's mouth?

CHARLES OWEN
WELLAND

Who names a racehorse Taking Up Space?

I spent a fair part of my summer watching thoroughbreds charge around oval tracks in Saratoga Springs and Finger Lakes, N.Y.

I'm writing a book about the Great Zippy Chippy, the New York state racehorse that defied all odds and logic to amass a breathtaking ten-year career of 100 consecutive wins. Sorry, make that 100 losses in a row. No, he never won a race but in fairness, he always meant to.

Zippy Chippy may not have had a really fast pace or a quick dash out of the gate or a powerful drive down the stretch or great stamina in long races or ... wait! What else is there? Oh yeah, that horse could eat his weight in alfalfa.

In doing research for this project I could not help but notice some of the very strange names owners give their steeds. In his career Zippy ran against horses named Two Chums Up, Take Sum Believing, We Passem, Shininlikeidiamonds, I'mjumpingjackflask, Sixfeetunder, Makemineagoldmine and Imgonnabiteyounow. As far as I can tell Byby Fran's Kitchen and Uncle Johnscocokin never ran in the same race. If Wishes Were Horses sums it up pretty well while Millie Hurry Up makes you kinda sad.

Zippy Chippy somehow managed to lose a race in which DeWitt Be Quick wasn't, Rockit Man failed to launch and Heaven El Wait will have to. On the other hand he once finished 15

WILLIAM
THOMAS

HUMOUR

lengths ahead of a horse named Viva La Triomph which ended up dead last.

There's actually a governing agency in horse racing that must approve of the owner's choice of name. And so there should be. One guy who didn't like the track announcer named his horse Another Horse so that as the thoroughbreds rushed down the homestretch the call would go out over the PA system: "And Another Horse has taken the lead" confusing the hell out of everybody.

Although Big Tits was rejected by the British censor, it was eventually registered in France where there is no French translation for the phrase. Manchester United soccer star Wayne

Rooney once tried to name two of his horses Hoof Hearted and Norfolk Enchants. The censor stopped Rooney in his X-rated tracks.

And although the same censor caught Ivanna Humpalot before it appeared on the official program, *Wear The Fox Hat, Passing Wind and Sofa Can Fast* somehow snuck through. Who Gives A Donald was green-lighted but Anita Mandelay got the stop sign.

The trouble with owning and naming

a horse is that any damn fool can do it. Take my nephew David for instance. Having spent a good part of his college days at the races, he and two buddies decided they needed to move

up the track ladder from losing better to thoroughbred owners. So they walked into the track's administration office and one day said they wanted to claim a horse. "She looked at us like we were

high on crack,* David recalls. But they knew a guy and for cash that guy talked to another guy and \$2,000 later they owned a horse.

See THOMAS page 6

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

     

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■ THOMAS

Horses have some strange names

"Yeah, we named him Threeguysonthesauce." (Now you see why the crack was unnecessary.)

So there they were, three kids scurrying around the paddock like Kentucky straw-hat dandies and slightly buzzed on beer. "A syndicate of investors" is the title they preferred.

All that was great and the girls were quite impressed until the first \$1,000 vet bill arrived. A sobering experience times three. That's when the horse went off to be a jumper at a show farm and the boys went back to being two-dollar bettors.

So Threeguysonthesauce goes into the bin of bad horse names along with Unblessed, Dude Anonymous, Sir Jouncewell, Meek Mouse and in a belated shout out to The



NEUTERS FILE PHOTO

Honeymooner's Ralph Kramden — Bangzoomtothemoon.

Somebody should have considered charges against owners who named their colts Happy Hooves, Horsemeat Jr., Bag O'Bones, Born Loser and Horse-Apples. Three Legs And A Prayer

however carries a certain caché and I must admit I do like Nag, Nag, Nag.

What's in a name? Bad humour if you're into naming race horses.

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Port Colborne

Food Drive

Saturday, November 2nd, 2013

The Port Colborne Lions will be conducting the yearly Port Colborne Door to Door Food Drive this year on Saturday, November the 2nd. The need is as great as ever, so please give generously! All donations will support the Port Cares Reach Out Food Bank.

Our collection teams begin their routes at 10am. Please have your donations available by then.

We are also accepting cash donations to purchase much needed milk, eggs, meat & fresh produce. We will also be accepting Canadian Tire money donations!

Volunteers are needed! No registration or sign up is required. Please join us at the Christian Life Assembly Church at 484 Barrick Road on Saturday, November the 2nd by 9:30 am. Student volunteers will be given full credit towards their OSSD community hours requirements.

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LOCAL NEWS

Cop gets probation for bar altercation

ST. CATHARINES — A veteran police officer convicted of assaulting a photographer in Niagara Falls remains on the Niagara Regional Police payroll.

Const. Paul Zarofoitis was placed on probation for 12 months after pleading guilty to assault bodily harm stemming from an altercation May 19, 2012, at Kool Katts Caribbean Restaurant.

In addition to the criminal matter, he also faces a police disciplinary hearing on a charge of discreditable conduct under the Police Services Act. A date for that hearing has yet to be set, said NRP Const. Rich Gadreau.

Zarofoitis' duties with the NRP were reassigned upon his arrest and remain in effect.

Wallenda returns

NIAGARA FALLS — Famed wirewalker Nik Wallenda will speak at the 40th annual Niagara Falls Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Oct. 30.

Wallenda became the first man to walk a wire across the falls in more than a century during a televised event last summer that drew huge ratings. He followed it up by walking across the Grand Canyon this summer.

The breakfast will be at Club Italia, 2525 Montrose Rd., starting at 6:15 a.m. Tickets are \$12.50 each, available at the mayor's office or by phoning 905-356-7521 ext. 4202.



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CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

at St. John's Lutheran Church, 3421 Hwy. 3, Bake sale, silent auction, tea table; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Funds to be matched by Faithlife Financial.

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takes place at 655 Tanguay Ave., Welland, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Penny sale, bake sale, tea time and more.

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

presented by Murders Tastefully Executed, at the Croatian National Home, 6 Broadway Ave., Welland. Tickets \$45 each. All proceeds to United Way of South Niagara. This event is hosted by Meals on Wheels Port Colborne. Call 905-835-1581 for tickets.

PENNY SALE

at 1557 Pelham St., Fortnith, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bake table and refreshments available. Penny draw at 2 p.m.

MODEL RAILROAD ENGINEERS

open house at 1141 Maple St., Fenwick. Also on Nov. 3, 16 and 17 Noon to 4:30 p.m. all days. Donations to Greater Niagara Railroad Engineers appreciated. See more at www.gnmre.ca

CLOTHING SALE

Starts 5 p.m. at Pelham Public Library and ends 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8. All styles and sizes of clothing for men, women and children. Donations accepted.

NIAGARA BEEKEEPERS

Association meets at the Niagara Regional Police Service community room, 5 Lincoln St., Welland, at 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER 3

HOLY NAME CATHOLIC

School 50th anniversary celebration. Blessing at 1 p.m. followed by liturgy and open house. Call for information: 905-732-4992.

POINSETTIA FESTIVAL

hosted by St. Andrew the Apostolic Catholic Women's League at noon, draws at 2 p.m. Penny and bake tables, coffee and tea, hotdogs, free admission. Proceeds for church maintenance.

NOVEMBER 5

FASHION SHOW

presented by Faith Rebekah Lodge No. 84 at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 77 Division St., Welland, at 7 p.m. Tickets \$8 by calling 905-357-2036. Fashion by Tan Jay. Prizes, coffee and desserts.

WIDOWS INFORMATION

Network meets in the cafe at Faith Tabernacle (Fitch St. and South Pelham Rd., Welland) 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., doors open at 6:30. Pharmacist Shelby Bruni will share information on your pharmacist's role as part of your health care team. Tea and coffee provided. No

Woodlands of Sunset hosted by Regina Lodge No. 20 Order Sons of Italy, at 7 p.m. Refreshments served with lively Italian music.

NOVEMBER 9

COUNTRY KRAFT SHOW

at Eastdale Secondary School, 170 Wellington St., Welland, today and Nov. 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Many unique handcrafted items to choose from. Lunch available. Non-perishable items collected for

contact Mimi Gibbons, 905-734-8486.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

at Knox Church, 335 Fitch St., Welland, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Baking, deli, jams, baby quilts, crafts and silent auction.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

at Rapelle Lodge, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Penny sale, draws, bake table, Christmas gift sale. Refreshments available.

SOUP AND SANDWICH

luncheon at Central United Church, 12 Young St., Welland. Homemade soup, open-faced sandwiches (egg salad, ham, turkey, salmon), cookies and squares, tea or coffee. Cost \$10 a person. Piano background. Get tickets by calling 905-732-2333.

PASTA NIGHT

at Casa Dante. Takeout dinner for \$8 from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sauce, meatballs, minestrone soup, and pasta fagioli are also available for takeout. Eat in has been cancelled.

NOVEMBER 13

BOOK SIGNING

Join Joe Barkovich, former longtime reporter and city editor at The Tribune as he reads from a compilation of his columns, at Pelham Public Library. His new book, From a Reporter's Notebook, provides an interesting cross section of his many columns. Starts 7 p.m., cost \$3. Register ahead.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S POINSETTIA

tea, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Croatian National Home, 6 Broadway Ave., Welland.

NOVEMBER 16

ATLAS HOTEL DISCO

reunion party hosted by Friends of the Welland Museum at Casa Dante at 8 p.m. with one of the original DJ's from the Atlas Hotel, John Chiochio. He will spin disco hits from '76 to '83. Tickets \$15 or \$20, at the door and may be bought at Welland Historical Museum. Prizes for best disco costume, best afro or mullet, best disco dancer and best couple dancers who can remember The Hustle.

HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Christmas House tour organized by Fortnith United Church. Six homes and the church beautifully decorated by local designers. Tickets \$20, available at 905-892-6433 (church) and participating designers: Vermeer's Garden Centre and Flower Shop, Cox Home Furniture, The Log Cabin Gift Store, Le Village, Décor Amour/ HomeTown Treasures, Brian E. Burget & Associates Interior Design, J&J Floral Expressions, and Floral Dimensions. Tours 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ticket price includes refreshments at church.

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NOVEMBER 6

WELLAND EASTDALE ALUMNI

meet at 7 p.m. in the school library. Meetings are open to all former and present students. Visit www.eastdalealumni.com for info on our upcoming Atlantic City Trip and other fundraising events.

NOVEMBER 7

ITALIAN EVENING

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SOUP'S ON!

tickets go on sale at St. Kevin's church, before and after the 5 p.m. mass today and 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. masses on Sunday, and weekends following. Soup's ON! in the parish hall with seatings at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Participants are: Niagara College's Food and Wine Institute, Blessed Trinity, Confederation, Eastdale, Lakeshore Catholic and Notre Dame College School teams. Soups will be announced in early November. Tickets are \$10 a person. For more information on ticket availability,

NOVEMBER 10

OUR LADY OF HUNGARY

hosts its 85th church anniversary Luncheon 12:30 p.m. at the Hungarian Hall, Hellens Ave., Welland. Chicken soup, cabbage rolls, breaded chicken, Gypsy steak, roasted potatoes, salad, dessert, coffee/tea. For tickets/reservations call: Les Ujfalusi at 905-892-6407, Rudy Ragatz at 905-734-3880 or Frank Biro at 905-732-7336.

NOVEMBER 12

FAMILY TREES

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There has, however, been considerable debate over the idea of vaccination. Many people are still not convinced that vaccines are a good idea despite the fact that every healthcare professional would agree that they are. There are very few risks associated with vaccinations and the side effects are generally mild. They may include:

- FATIGUE
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- HEADACHE
- ITCHING AT INJECTION SITE
- NAUSEA
- DIZZINESS OR FAINTING (MOST COMMON IN ADOLESCENTS)
- FEVER
- MILD RASH

More serious side effects from a vaccine may result from an allergy, but these are very rare (less than one in one million doses given). The important message is that there are far greater benefits to immunization than these risks.

One of the most talked about vaccines in autumn is the flu vaccine. As we approach winter, it is time to prepare ourselves for Flu Season. What better way to prepare than to get the flu shot and prevent getting the flu in the first place? It is generally recommended that everyone over the age of 6 months get the flu shot. It is especially important for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, people who work directly with the community, people who are at high risk of flu-related complications or hospitalization, and people with certain chronic health conditions. If you have questions or concerns about whether the flu shot is right for you, please speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

Trained pharmacists are now holding flu clinics in some pharmacies to increase awareness about the importance of getting immunized and provide greater ease of access to the flu shot for community members. This year the flu shot will be offered free of charge at each of the Boggio Family of Pharmacies locations. Come by one of our pharmacies to get your flu shot in a clean, comfortable, convenient setting.

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EDUCATION

Union says DSBN unprepared for teacher hiring rule

DON FRASER
QMI Agency Niagara
ST. CATHARINES — A union official has fired back at a school board's

public frustration at new hiring practices it says are disrupting some classes.
At Tuesday's District School Board

of Niagara board meeting, a parent involvement committee urged the quashing of a 2012 provincial rule using seniority as a major hiring fac-

tor for occasional teaching positions.

That regulation applies to all Ontario boards, and means for those long-term positions the top five most senior qualified teachers must be interviewed for a position.

The top candidate is chosen within that group.

At issue is that successful candidates still can apply for more desirable jobs during a posting opening period.

The committee, in a letter sent to the education minister, said that means some classrooms have not had permanent teachers in place for weeks, and this creates a poor learning situation for students.

"The crux of it is that the board was not prepared for an open staffing process," said Mark Carter, president of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, which represents occasional teachers at DSBN.

In an interview Wednesday, he said the occasional teachers could previously be handpicked for positions by principals in a process that was unfair.

The only difference is that positions are finally being posted, "so the job-jumping behaviour has an opportunity to emerge that it never had before."

Carter said the changes are widely supported by the occasional teachers across the province. A teacher with years in the classroom is almost certainly going to be better at doing the job than someone right out of

school, he says.

Carter adds the process has meant more transparency, fairness and accountability for this teaching group.

He says the change in the revolving-door phenomenon, the board might wish with the union to limit the number of times a teacher can switch positions through the year.

DSBN's human resources superintendent Jim Morgan disputes Carter's comments.

He said the previous hiring process was "fairly negotiated ... in a collective agreement."

The "revolving door" of teachers didn't happen previously, because the agreement didn't specifically allow for it, Morgan said.

Job vacancies could be dealt with on short notice, in an emergency, without posting. All positions were otherwise filled from a teacher in an occasional list.

He said the new regulation does not allow for restrictions on the teacher job movements, although Carter states that the regulation is neutral on the issue and that other school boards have found solutions.

Morgan also says restricting the number of times a teacher can move could be difficult in that it would "disadvantage members on the (occasional list), in limiting them to apply for jobs."

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **MUNICIPAL PLANNING:** Wainfleet zoning bylaw in holding pattern.

Township needs official plan

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — The township has a new zoning bylaw, but it can't be put into place until its official plan has been approved, planner Michael Sullivan told council Tuesday night.

"There's no word on when the official plan will be approved. It was taken to the Ontario Municipal Board earlier this year by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, which states the plan does not meet provincial policy statements."

Sullivan was going to check with legal counsel to make sure the dates he set for the zoning bylaw to come before council are in compliance. He was looking at a date of Nov. 26 to bring it back before council for approval.

During Tuesday night's meeting, council heard from Paul Lowes of Sorensen Gravelly Woods Planning Consultants, the company which worked on the official plan.

"We've been at a standstill since January," said Lowes, adding it was because of the official plan.

He said his firm has been working with the zoning bylaw committee and the public to get to the point where it's at now and added there were public meetings and an open house. The public had chances to comment throughout the process, he said, and still do.

The consultant gave a quick rundown of changes made in the zoning bylaw, which covers the entire township. He said there was a section on how to read the bylaw, because zoning bylaws aren't the easiest things to understand.

Homes, he said, can't be built within 550 metres of wind turbines, which is the distance the province set out as a setback for turbines from homes. People looking to build within 300 metres of a rail yard will have to have a noise study carried out. There is a large rail yard near Lambert Rd. in the township.

Another change, he said, was along the lakeshore area of the township, which used to be a mix of zoning. It is now all the same zone.

"Lot coverage along the lakeshore was addressed during the process ... it was a big component of the discussion," said Lowes.

Lot coverage means a certain area must be set aside to allow for septic systems on a property to handle waste produced in a home.

With the changes, the zoning bylaw takes into account the average lot coverage in an area around a home.

The new zoning bylaw should be before council sometime in November and the deadline for public comments is Nov. 15. A copy of the bylaw can be found at www.wainfleet.ca.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wainfleet's Sue Smith, 43, works out in a body sculpting class at the YMCA in Port Colborne. Smith still has 40 lbs. to go before she reaches her ideal weight — a goal she's confident she'll meet thanks to her supportive family, who are all YMCA members, and the Y's staff.

Striving for the picture of health

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — A picture is worth a thousand words. And for Sue Smith, her snapshot screamed loud and clear.

It was while vacationing in Chicago the Wainfleet resident had her photo taken — a simple snap of the shutter that changed her life.

"Oh my gosh. What happened?" was her only reaction as the camera was handed back to her for review.

"That's not what I want to look like. That's not what I want to feel like," she said this week, reflecting on the pivotal moment when she realized her weight gain had gotten out of control.

Determined to make a change, she and husband Scott took a long, hard look at their diet and, when the Port Colborne YMCA opened at Vale Health and Wellness Centre in February, made a commitment to each other to begin hitting the gym.

And they did — hard.

The pair began training four to five days a week, taking on cardio, weights and various classes.

"We knew we needed to break the cycle. It was the start of a new routine. We knew it was going to be tough but we had to stay committed," Smith said.

It has been eight months.

Two weeks ago, when someone handed Smith a camera after snapping a photo at a family wedding, she couldn't believe her eyes.

"It just blows me away, the difference," said the mother of seven and stepmother of two, who in those eight months has managed to lose 85 lbs.

The 43-year-old has since made it her quest — in between workouts, that is — to spread word of the life-changing support available at the YMCA.

"I can't speak enough about the Y and what they mean to me," she said as her voice began to quiver with emotion.

"They're like a part of our family."

See SUE SMITH p. 16

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC MEETING PROPOSED REGIONAL POLICY PLAN AMENDMENT (RPPA 8-2013) Development Phasing Policies

PURPOSE

The Region will be hosting an Open House and Public Meeting to allow residents an opportunity to learn about and provide feedback on the Region's proposed Development Phasing Policies.

PROPOSED CHANGE

An amendment to the Regional Policy Plan is being undertaken to provide Region-wide development phasing policies. The Amendment is required to conform with the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Places to Grow) and to implement the settlement with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) and the Region on the appeal of Amendment 2-2009 (Niagara 2031). Development phasing policies will guide future residential and employment development by prioritizing where, and in what order, lands in Niagara will develop to the year 2031 and beyond. The development phasing policies will help to complete the policy framework for managing growth and development in Niagara Region.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Public input on this proposed amendment is welcomed and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Region. If you do not express your views through these avenues, you may be forfeiting your right to appeal Council of the Region to the Ontario Municipal Board.

OPEN HOUSE

This Open House is being held under the provisions of Part III — Official Plans of the Planning Act at the following time and place:

DATE: Thursday, Nov. 7, 2013
TIME: 12 – 2 p.m.
LOCATION: Brock Ballroom @ Four Points by Sheraton
3530 Schmon Parkway
Thorold, ON

PUBLIC MEETING

This Public Meeting is being held under the provisions of the Planning Act at the following time and place:

DATE: Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013
TIME: 1 p.m.
LOCATION: Niagara Region Headquarters –
Campbell West
Temporary Council Chambers, Formerly CE 101 & 102
2201 St. David's Rd.
Thorold, ON

WRITTEN SUBMISSION

To provide input in writing or to request personal notice if the proposed change is adopted, please send a letter c/o Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, 2201 St. David's Road, P.O. Box 1042, Thorold, Ontario L2V 4T7, or email janet.pilon@niagararegion.ca.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the proposed Amendment please contact Brian Dick, Senior Planner by phone at 905-685-1571, ext. 3365 or by email brian.dick@niagararegion.ca.

Information and materials related to this Amendment are available for inspection in the Integrated Community Planning Department at the above address Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and at www.niagararegion.ca. A copy of the proposed Amendment will be made available on November 7, 2013.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting the Niagara Region's Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-685-4225 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Planning Act

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Regional Municipality of Niagara before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Regional Municipality of Niagara before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the proposed Policy Plan Amendment, you must make a written request to the Regional Clerk and such request must include the name and address to which such notice should be sent.

Niagara  Region

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■ SUE SMITH

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It was staff that pushed Smith to continue to strive for her goals, driving her past the discouragement she experienced in the first few months.

"I could see some changes in my strength, but the weight was just not coming off," she said.

Scott, on the other hand, had immediate results and lost about 30 lbs. in the first six weeks.

"I really hated him," she said with a laugh, while admitting it was difficult to watch his weight melt away.

It took time, but the results did come, she said.

"The hardest part of the whole journey is making that first step. Don't get discouraged," she said.

"It will never be this hard again if you stay this committed."

"Even one day a week is one day off the couch. It's worth it because you're worth it."

Smith still has 40 lbs. to go before she reaches her ideal weight — a goal she's confident she'll meet thanks to her supportive family, who are all YMCA members, and the Y's staff.

To give back to the organization, she has begun training to become a fitness instructor.

"If I can make one person feel like I feel, feel supported like I do, that's what's important, I want to pay it forward," she said.

It's stories like Smith's that are reflective of the work YMCA staff set out to do every day, said Port centre manager Ben McDermott.

Just as she has seen success, so has the centre. It has dou-

bled its projected numbers for the first eight months of operation, welcoming in 2,400 members since February.

Programs, fitness classes and swimming lessons have all seen high enrolment, McDermott said, and the facility is on track to hit its peak 2,900 members in January.

"I think there was a real need for a Y in Port Colborne," he said, as it provides a one-stop shop for families looking to get active and have fun.

"We're looking forward to meeting more folks in Port Colborne and surrounding areas and talking to them about the benefits of having a YMCA in the community."

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